



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois, Indiana
Michigan, Minnesota
Ohio, Wisconsin

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Public Comment Period

U.S. EPA will accept written comments on its recommended alternative presented in the EE/CA during a 30-day public comment period:

July 28 to August 27, 1997



U.S. EPA Proposes Lagoon Soil Cleanup for National Presto Industries Site

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

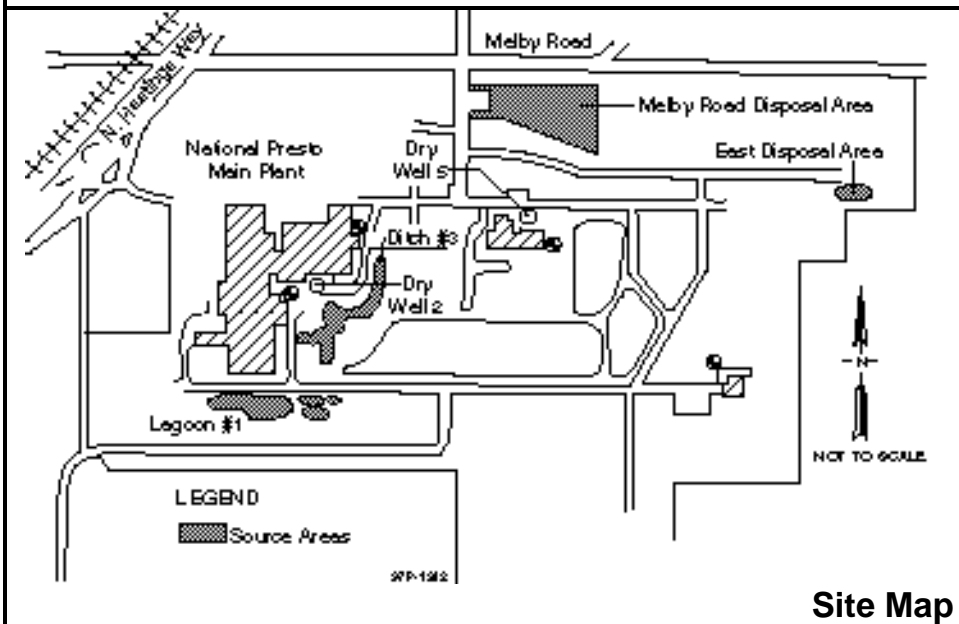
July 1997

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has approved a document called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the National Presto Industries (NPI) site in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The EE/CA analyzed and compared four cleanup alternatives for residual soils in Lagoon No. 1 and for the stockpiled soils previously removed from Lagoon No. 1.

This fact sheet announces U.S. EPA's recommended cleanup alternatives, soil vapor extraction for the residual contamination in Lagoon No. 1 and placement beneath a cap for the stockpiled soils. This fact sheet explains these alternatives and describes why they are being recommended. It also lists other alternatives that were reviewed by U.S. EPA. A detailed description of the recommended alternatives and other alternatives reviewed is in the EE/CA document.¹

Public input on U.S. EPA's recommended alternative is important to the cleanup remedy selection process. Based on new information obtained through public comment, U.S. EPA may modify its recommended alternative or select the other alternative presented in this EE/CA fact sheet. The public is encouraged to review and comment on U.S. EPA's recommended alternative.



1. Section 300.415 (b)(4)(i) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and Section 113(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires publication of a notice describing U.S. EPA's recommended alternative. The EE/CA must also be made available to the public for comment. This fact sheet is a summary of information contained in the EE/CA for the National Presto Industries site. Please consult the EE/CA for more detailed information.

Background

The NPI site is located at 3925 North Hastings Way in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The site lies within the City of Eau Claire, with the exception of approximately 9 acres in the extreme eastern part of the property, which is located in the Town of Hallie, and approximately 4 acres in the extreme southern part of the property, which is located in the Town of Seymour. Most of the NPI site, comprising approximately 320 acres, is situated in Chippewa County; a portion is located along the northern border of Eau Claire County.

Prior to its purchase by the U.S. Government (War Department) in 1942, the site was predominantly farmland with isolated areas of woodlands. NPI purchased the property from the federal government in 1947. The company initially manufactured household appliances and outboard motors at the facility, and then added defense-related products in 1951.

Lagoon No. 1

Lagoon No. 1 was used as part of the wastewater disposal system. Between 1966 and 1980, liquid waste, solids, cooling water, and process wastewater were discharged to Lagoon No. 1, which was used as a settling pond. The waste forge compound settled to the bottom of the lagoon and oils floated to the top, leaving a layer of water between the oil and the waste forge compound. Water was then pumped from Lagoon No. 1 into Lagoon No. 2. The discharge lines from the manufacturing plant were permanently sealed off from Lagoon No. 1 in 1985.

In October 1993, following sampling efforts and a pilot study, approximately 14,000 gallons of floating oil were removed from Lagoon No. 1 and disposed of as fuel for an off-site cement kiln. The standing water remained in the lagoon to allow the use of a barge-mounted pump to remove the waste forge compound. Approximately 1.1 million gallons of pumpable waste forge compound were removed and blended with solvents and burned as supplemental fuel at U.S. EPA-approved cement kilns.

After removal of the waste forge compound, Lagoon No. 1 contained standing water and residual waste forge compound mixed with soil at the bottom and sides of the lagoon. In November 1994, the water was pumped into settling tanks for the oil and solids to separate. The water was then analyzed prior to discharge to the City of Eau Claire sanitary sewer system. The waste forge compound solids were removed from the tanks and used as supplemental fuel for cement kilns.

After the waste forge compound solids were removed, a significant volume of waste and soil mixture remained in Lagoon No. 1. This mixture could not be used as fuel for cement kilns because it was determined not to be an efficient fuel source.

Stockpiled Soils

From July to September 1996, approximately 10,000 cubic yards of soil were removed from Lagoon No. 1. Originally, these soils were to be sent to an off-site cement kiln for use as a supplemental fuel. However, the concentrations were too low to be an efficient fuel source. Currently, the soils are covered and maintained on site.

Sampling Activities

In August and September 1995, samples from Lagoon No. 1 were collected from six soil borings at 5-foot intervals drilled to bedrock. The sampling effort was conducted in the southern section of the lagoon. Ground water was present above bedrock (unbroken solid rock, overlaid in most places by soil or rock fragment) in one of the borings and a sample was collected. In addition, seven soil gas samples were collected in September 1995.

From July to September 1996, removal of the waste and soil mixture from the lagoon also facilitated subsurface sampling activities. In September 1996, sampling efforts included 17 soil borings, drilled in the western and northern sections of the lagoon. Samples of ground water were collected from two borings before reaching bedrock.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in samples collected near the surface of the lagoon; no VOCs were detected in samples from depths below 7 feet. The ground-water and shallow soil gas sampling results also detected VOCs.

Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) were also detected in the samples from the soil borings.

Definition —

Volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds are any organic (carbon containing) compound that evaporates (volatilizes) readily at room temperature.

Background, continued

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected in one soil boring, and it was determined that the concentrations were not of concern because they were below federal and state standards.

Concentrations of metals detected in soil samples were consistent with background (naturally occurring) levels determined in previous investigations.

Summary of Site Risks

According to the site's baseline risk assessment which examined "pathways" for exposure to residual contaminants at Lagoon No. 1, dermal absorption (touch, skin contact), inhalation (breathing) and ingestion (eating) are ways to become exposed. The most concentrated contaminants in the lagoon were removed, however, which essentially eliminated human health risks. There is also a minor risk of exposure to stockpiled soils. However, the contaminant concentrations are low and the soil is covered and maintained.

Small amounts of waste forge compound remain mixed with soil near the surface at some locations in Lagoon No. 1 and may pose a risk if the lagoon is not covered to prevent direct contact. Residual VOCs in the subsurface of the lagoon would act as a very low level source of contaminants to ground water as rain and runoff infiltrate through the subsurface.

The following are the remedial objectives for residual contamination at the Lagoon No. 1 area and the stockpiled soils:

- Prevent direct contact with the contaminants to eliminate human health risks.
- Remove residual VOC vapors from the subsurface zone to eliminate ground-water contamination.
- Continue to operate the interim extraction system at the southwestern portion of the site to prevent off-site movement of VOCs in ground water.
- Minimize potential for movement of contamination from the stockpiled soils.

Description of Contaminated Materials

The EE/CA addresses the following contaminated materials:

- Residual VOC vapor in the subsurface area.
- Small amounts of waste forge compound mixed with soil that remain at the bottom of the lagoon, and waste forge compound material beneath the access road in the western section of the lagoon.
- Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of waste forge compound material stockpiled on site.

The small amount of waste forge compound mixed with soil near the bottom of the lagoon poses a minimal source of contaminants to ground water, given the low concentrations of VOCs detected in the samples. This material would

remain in the lagoon, because it is not feasible to remove the minor amount of waste forge compound that remains mixed with large amounts of soil.

Recommended Cleanup Alternative

Lagoon No. 1

U.S. EPA's recommended cleanup method, an on-site soil vapor extraction system, would be installed to remove residual VOC vapors from the subsurface of Lagoon No. 1.

Once the soil vapor extraction operation is completed and the equipment is removed, the lagoon would be backfilled. The system would remove residual VOC vapors that present a low level source of ground-water contamination. VOCs would not continue to leach to ground water once they are removed.

The interim ground-water extraction system at the southwestern portion of the site would operate for an estimated 5 years under the soil vapor extraction system.

A conceptual soil vapor extraction system design was developed based on the results of a pilot study conducted at another part of the site known as the Melby Road Disposal Site; therefore, no additional studies would be needed. The design included five wells capable of removing vapors from approximately 5 to 35 feet below the bottom of the lagoon.

The system would operate until the VOC vapors have been removed.

Recommended Cleanup Alternative, continued

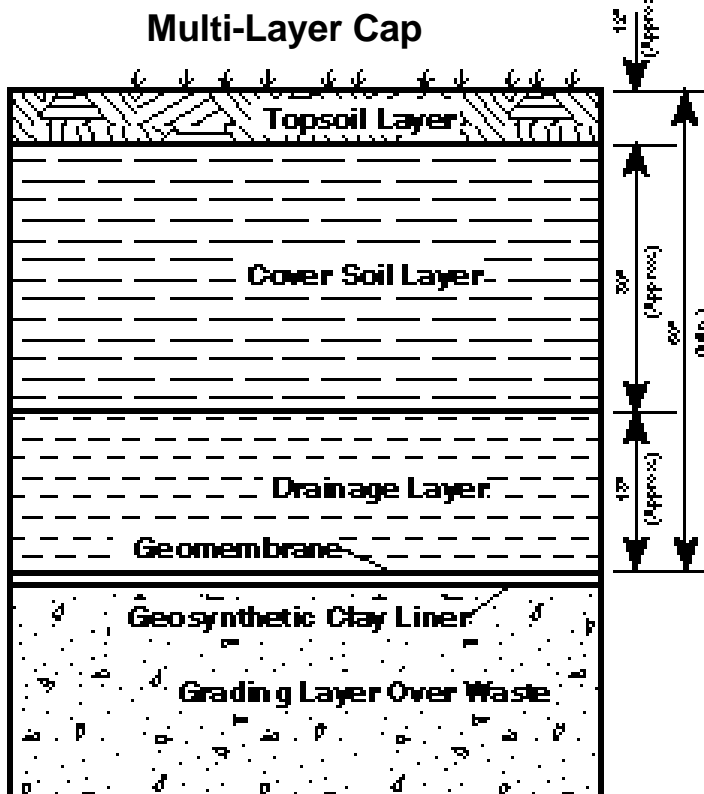
The extracted soil vapors would be monitored to evaluate the reductions in subsurface soil vapor VOC concentrations.

The estimated cost is \$480,000, with minimal operation and maintenance costs.

Stockpiled Soils

U.S. EPA's recommended cleanup method for the 10,000 cubic yards of stockpiled soils is consolidation and capping at the Melby Road Disposal Site. These soils will be consolidated with other soils containing low levels of contaminants and placed beneath a multi-layer cap currently being designed (see figure below).

The estimated cost is \$100,000. This will cover the movement of the soils and does not include the cost of the multi-layer cap.



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Evaluating the Alternatives

U.S. EPA used three criteria to compare the cleanup alternatives in the EE/CA and to recommend a practical cleanup alternative. The evaluation criteria consisted of:

1. **Effectiveness** — considers the length of time needed to implement a cleanup alternative and the risks the alternative poses to workers, residents, and the environment during implementation.
2. **Implementability** — considers the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing the cleanup alternative, such as the availability of goods and services.
3. **Cost** — includes estimated capital, operation, and maintenance costs, as well as present worth costs. Present worth cost is an alternative's total cost over time in terms of today's dollars.

Other Alternatives Considered

U.S. EPA considered three other cleanup alternatives for Lagoon No. 1.

1. "No-further action." This alternative would use the existing interim ground-water extraction system to capture and prevent off-site movement of VOCs in ground water for about 10 years. The estimated cost is \$366,000. This alternative was determined not to be protective of ground water in the short term.
2. Excavation, piling, composting/aeration. This alternative was determined not to be cost effective because of long-term management requirements.
3. Excavation and disposal at an off-site landfill. This alternative was determined not to be cost effective due to high transport and disposal costs.

EPA considered three other cleanup alternatives for the stockpiled soils.

1. Soil vapor extraction. This alternative was determined to be

Other Alternatives Considered, continued

technically impractical due to the amount of waste forge compound in soil.

2. Off-site use as a fuel source.
This alternative was not applicable because the soils were determined not to be an efficient fuel source.
3. Disposal in an off-site landfill.
This alternative was determined not to be cost effective.

The Next Step

U.S. EPA will consider public comments received during the public comment period (July 28 to August 27, 1997) before selecting a final cleanup plan for Lagoon No. 1 and the stockpiled soils. The cleanup plan will be described in a final decision document that will be available for public review.

After the final action is chosen for Lagoon No. 1 and the stockpiled soils, U.S. EPA will meet with the parties believed responsible for the site contamination and request that they fund the cleanup. Following negotiations, the final action will be designed and implemented.

If these parties are unable to negotiate an agreement with U.S. EPA, or are unwilling to do the cleanup, Superfund monies may be used to pay for the final action. U.S. EPA may try to recover these costs in federal court.

Additional Information

Anyone interested in learning more about the EE/CA, other site-related cleanup activities, or the Superfund

process is encouraged to review the site information repositories. These repositories contain copies of the technical and community involvement documents related to the site. The information repositories are located at:

Hallie Town Hall
Route 9, 957 Hagen Road
Chippewa Falls, WI

Chippewa Falls Public Library
105 West Central Street
Chippewa Falls, WI

An Administrative Record file, which contains the information upon which the selection of the cleanup plan will be based, has also been established at the public library, town hall, and the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

For further information on the NPI site, please contact any of the federal and state staff members listed on the this page.

U.S. EPA —

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U.S. EPA Personnel Note —

Michael Bellot is the new U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager for the NPI site. Before transferring to U.S. EPA's Chicago office in December 1996, Mr. Bellot was a U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager for 5 years in Region 9 (San Francisco).

Before working for U.S. EPA, the Illinois native was a Section Chief in the Superfund Section at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. He earned a masters degree in Hazardous Waste Management Supervision from Arizona State University in 1994, and a bachelors degree in Agriculture from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1985.

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Tear along broken line and send your comments to U.S. EPA.

You may use the space below to write your comments on U.S. EPA's recommended plan. Comments must be postmarked by August 27, 1997. If you have any questions, contact Susan Pastor, U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (312) 353-1325 or toll free at 1-800-621-8431. Comments may be sent via email to: pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov

Oral and written comments may be accepted at a public meeting. To request a public meeting, residents may contact Susan Pastor.

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State _____ Zip _____

NATIONAL PRESTO INDUSTRIES SUPERFUND SITE PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Fold on dashed lines, staple, stamp, and mail

Name_____

Address_____

City _____ State_____

Zip_____

Place First Class Stamp Here

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